

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable heater for aquaria, comprising a substantially tubular container (2) within which are housed an electrical heating element (3), a switch (6) comprising fixed contacts (7, 8) and moving contacts (9, 10) capable of electrically connecting the said heating element (3) to an outside source (R) of electrical power, a temperature sensor (12) having a bi-metal strip (13) capable of detecting the temperature of the liquid and interacting with the said switch (6) to move it from a closed position to an open position when a predetermined temperature (T) is reached, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said-moving contacts (9, 10) of the said-switch (6) are secured to a free end (13') of the said-bi-metal strip (13), the other end (13'') of the said-bi-metal strip (13) being electrically insulated so as to prevent current from passing through it.

2. (Currently Amended) The heating according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said-heating element (3) comprises at least one electrical resistance (4) having a first terminal directly connected to a first conductor (5') of a supply cable from the said source (R) of electrical power.

3. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said at least one electrical resistance (4) has a second terminal which can be connected to a second conductor (5'') of the said-supply cable (5) through the said-switch (6).

4. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said-moving contacts (9, 10) are mounted on a connecting plate (14) which is in turn anchored to the said-free end (13'') of the bi-metal strip (13).

5. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said-fixed contacts (7, 8) of the said-switch (6) are connected respectively to the said-second supply cable (5'') and the said-second terminal of the said-at least one resistance (4), the said-pair of fixed contacts (7, 8) being in a position facing the said-pair of moving contacts (9, 10).

6. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the other end of the said-strip (13'') is anchored to a supporting frame (15) through a suitable elastic connecting member (16).

7. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said-elastic connecting member (16) has a portion (16<sup>2</sup>) substantially transverse to the plane of the extension of the bi-metal strip (13) for connection to the said-bi-metal strip (13) and a portion substantially parallel to the plane of extension of the bi-metal strip (13) for anchoring to the said-frame (15).

8. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that it~~ comprises-comprising adjustment means (18) acting on the said substantially transverse portion (16<sup>2</sup>) of the said-elastic connecting member (16) to vary the stiffness of the bi-metal strip (13) and the position of its free end (13<sup>1</sup>), and therefore of the said-pair of moving contacts (9, 10) with respect to the said-pair of fixed contacts (7, 8).

9. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said-adjustment means (18) ~~comprise-comprises~~ a threaded pin (19) acting on the said-transverse portion (16<sup>2</sup>) of the said-elastic connecting member (16) and which can be screwed into a seat having a matching thread in a fixed support (20).

10. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said-threaded pin (19) is connected to a knob (22) projecting from the said container (2) and provided with a graduated thermometric scale (23) which can be compared with a fixed indicator associated with the said-container (2).

11. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said-knob (22) is connected to the said-threaded pin (19) through a small shaft (24) which passes through the said-container (2).

12. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~ it comprises-comprising means (27) for calibrating the said-temperature means (18) acting on the said-small shaft (24) to vary the angular position of the said-knob (22) with respect to the said-threaded pin (19) so as to adjust the temperature (T) set on the said-thermometric scale (23) to that effectively measured (T<sub>e</sub>) by an external reference thermometer.

13. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said calibration means (27) ~~comprise-comprises~~ an adjustment ratchet (28) housed in a seat (29) in the said-knob (22) rigidly connected to the said-small shaft (24) and

selectively connected to the ~~said~~-knob (22) in predetermined angular positions by means of a variable keying connecting member.

14. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~-variable keying connecting member comprises a toothed crown (34) which can be engaged by a tooth (32) formed along the upper edge of the ~~said~~-seat (29).

15. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ comprising magnetic means (33) ~~are proximate to the free end (13') of the said bi-metal strip (13) to keep the said moving and fixed contact means stably in a connecting position.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ including means ~~are provided for~~ visually indicating the position of the ~~said~~-switch, comprising a lamp or luminous diode (34) connected in parallel to the ~~said~~-electrical heating element (3).